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INDIVIDUAL DECORATIONS OF THE CIVIL WAR AND EARLIER

by John Wike

This article deals primarily with decorations awarded to American enlisted men while the Civil War was in progress. It also includes record of the scanty honors meted out to soldiers prior to 1861. In contrast, no attempt is made to carry the story beyond the end of the conflict. After the war many States, patriotic societies, fraternal organizations, and veteran associations awarded medals of one sort or another. But these gave no boost to the soldiers while they were in the thick of the fight, so they are not included here.

From the Revolutionary War up until the outbreak of the Civil War, little had been done through decorations to elevate and crystalize the esprit de corps of the army as a whole. Scant recognition had been given to the value, for morale purposes, of awarding medals to enlisted men for valor or other soldierly qualities. Although various officers had been given handsome medals or other more or less precious symbols of our country's esteem, the enlisted man was awarded little or nothing at all.

During the Revolutionary War, General Washington had recognized this need and, late in the war, had established the Badge of Military Merit (Purple Heart). Records reveal the names of but three recipients of this award. At approximately the same time he also authorized the Honorary Badge of Distinction to be given to enlisted men who had served three years with bravery, fidelity, and good conduct.

In 1780¹ the Continental Congress awarded three militiamen² a medal for their part in capturing Major John Andre of the British Army while he was enroute to New York from West Point after having plotted with General Benedict Arnold for the betrayal of the American cause.

Nothing further was done along these lines until the Mexican War, when a Certificate of Merit, which also carried a \$2.00 a month raise, was authorized for deserv-

ing enlisted men.³ However, this was not a medal that a soldier could wear proudly on his uniform and show to the world at large, but a scrap of paper and, as such, no great morale builder. It was not until January 1905 that a badge was authorized to be issued to men who had been awarded a certificate of merit.⁴ Because only Congress could authorize the establishment of a medal, the award was classed as a badge. Thus, the President could authorize it. However, it did not help those who had won it in the Mexican War for it could only be given to men still in service. In 1918 the badge and the Certificate were discontinued and replaced by the Distinguished Service Medal.⁵

During the year 1847 a committee composed of citizens of New Orleans, Louisiana, came to Mexico and presented several gold medals to a number of commissioned officers and enlisted men. Major G. H. Crossman, Quartermaster Department, left two medals with the Adjutant General, on the 27th of October, along with the following memorandum:⁶

... The two gold medals herewith presented to Capt. O'Sullivan and Sergt. McCabe of the Army, by citizens of New Orleans were left in my hands at Camargo, Mexico, by one of the committee of presentation who brought to Mexico and delivered several other medals of a similar description to our non-com officers, but could not find the above named persons; who were then either discharged or absent in the U. States on recruiting service.

As I do not know where to find O'Sullivan or McCabe I leave the medals with the Adj. Genl. with a request that he will have them delivered to these persons.

The medals were deposited in a strong box in the Quartermaster General's Office for safe keeping on the same day. At the same time a letter was addressed to 2d Lieut. Michael O'Sullivan, 3d Infantry, City of Mexico, as follows:⁷

Sir:

Major Crossman of the Quartermasters Department this day [27 October 1847] deposited in the Adjutant General's Office a gold medal placed in his hands to be presented to you on the part of the citizens of New Orleans for your gallantry in the battles of "Palo

¹ Act of Continental Congress, 3 Nov. 1780.

² John Paulding, David Williams, and Isaac Van Wart. A complete description of the medal, known as the "Andre Medal," as well as other medals given in the name of Congress, can be found in Joseph Florimond duc de Loubat, *Medallic History of the United States, 1776-1876*, N. Y., 1878.

³ Act of Congress, 3 Mar. 1847.

⁴ GO 4, War Dept., 11 Jan. 1905.

⁵ Bulletin 43, War Dept., 22 July 1918.

⁶ Document 910 C AGO 1847, RG 94, AGO; all MSS cited are in the War Records Office, National Archives.

⁷ Letters Sent Book, AGO, 318 O 27 Oct. 1847, RG 94.

Alto" and "Resaca de la Palma." The medal will be retained in the Office subject to your orders and you are requested to give directions as to the disposition to be made of it.

It is not known whether or not Sergeant McCabe ever received his medal.

With the exception of the Certificate of Merit, the outbreak of the Civil War found the army with not a single decoration that could be won by courageous men. When, in 1862, the powers-that-be thrashed over the problem of a Medal of Honor, General Winfield Scott, along with others, voiced their misgivings. Luckily, others more farseeing realized its value and, eventually, on 12 July 1862, Congress authorized a Medal of Honor for enlisted men, which on 3 March 1863 was extended to include commissioned officers.⁸

The New York State Chamber of Commerce had already seen the light. On 6 June 1861 a resolution was adopted to award a medal to the commands of Fort Sumter, South Carolina, and Fort Pickens, Florida, for their gallant defense of those posts. Eleven months later the medals were presented by the President of the Chamber of Commerce in a ceremony to all recipients who could be present.⁹

Designed by Charles Muller of New York, the medals, one hundred and sixty-eight in number, were of bronze and of eight different sizes and varieties. They occupied the artist and several assistants for several months. The Sumter Medal had a portrait of General Anderson (a major during the defense of Fort Sumter) and the Pickens Medal had a portrait of Major Slemmer (a lieutenant during the Fort Pickens defense). The portraits were modelled from life—the Sumter Medal in New York and the Pickens Medal in Chicago. Both medals had four classes as follows:

FIRST CLASS SUMTER MEDAL for presentation to General Anderson. Diameter six inches, weight 50 ounces. Obverse: Medallion portrait of General Anderson with inscription "Robert Anderson, 1861". Reverse: The Genius or Guardian spirit of America arising from Fort Sumter. Wounded by the insult to the country's honor, she seizes the starry symbol of the nation and, with the flaming torch of war, calls aloud for loyal men to protect it. Inscription: "The Chamber of Commerce, New York, honors the defender of Fort Sumter—the patriot, the hero and the man."

SECOND CLASS SUMTER MEDAL for presentation to the commissioned officers. Diameter four and one half inches, weight 18 ounces. Same as the First Class Medal with the exception of the inscription which reads: "The Chamber of Commerce, New York, honors the defenders of Fort Sumter—first to withstand treason."

THIRD CLASS SUMTER MEDAL for presentation to the non-commissioned officers. Diameter three and one half inches, weight 12 ounces. Obverse: Same as First Class Medal. Reverse: Peter Hart raising the stars and stripes on the burning fort. The figure is from life. Inscription: "The Chamber of Commerce, New York, honors the defenders of Fort Sumter—first to withstand treason."

FOURTH CLASS SUMTER MEDAL (see Plates 1 and 2) for presentation to the privates. Diameter two inches, weight four ounces. Same as Third Class Medal.

FIRST CLASS PICKENS MEDAL for presentation to Major Slemmer. Diameter six inches, weight 50 ounces. Obverse: Medallion portrait of Major Adam J. Slemmer. Inscription: "Adam J. Slemmer, 1861". Reverse: Cerebus, or the Monster of War, chained to Fort Pickens. By this design the artist endeavored to typify the forbearance of the Government and its servants, a virtue strikingly shown during the defense of Fort Pickens. The initial letters, U.S., on the collar of the monster, indicates its owner. Amid the taunts and insults of the foe, the three headed monster is kept chained to the fort. Impatient of restraint, yet faithful to his trust in his captivity, he can but exhibit his fierceness, impatience, and defiant courage on himself. With one head he gnaws his paw, significant of the traitors in our camp; with another he glares defiantly at the foe, and with the other he sounds the charge. Inscription: "The Chamber of Commerce, New York, honors valor, forbearance, and fidelity. Fort Pickens, 1861."

SECOND CLASS PICKENS MEDAL for presentation to the commissioned officers. Diameter four and one half inches, weight 18 ounces. Same as First Class Medal.

THIRD CLASS PICKENS MEDAL (see Plates 1 and 2) for presentation to non-commissioned officers. Diameter three and one half inches, weight 12 ounces. Obverse: Same as First Class Medal. Reverse: A view of Fort Pickens in bold relief. Inscription: "The Chamber of Commerce, New York, honors the defenders of Fort Pickens—far off, but faithful."

FOURTH CLASS PICKENS MEDAL (see Plates 1 and 2) for presentation to privates. Diameter two inches, weight four ounces. Same as Third Class Medal.

General George A. McCall, on 2 January 1862, reported the names of officers and men of General E. O. C. Ords' Brigade (3d Brig., McCall's Div., Army of the Potomac), who were distinguished in the battle of Dranesville, Virginia, 20 December 1861, and suggested a reward for gallantry and merit in the shape of a medal or ribbon be awarded to deserving individuals. The suggestion, however, appears to have fallen by the wayside.

In March the Chief Signal Officer directed that every signal officer who skillfully and bravely carried his signal flag in action would be awarded a star instead of the block then occupying the center of his flag.¹⁰ The officer would have one flag to carry on all occasions of ceremony with the name of the battle inscribed in black letters on the upper point of the star. The names of subsequent actions in which the officer was distinguished would be inscribed on other points of the star numbering to the right of the central and upper point. Fol-

⁸ An excellent history of the Medal of Honor from its origin through World War II can be found in *The Medal of Honor of the United States Army*, Wash.: GPO, 1948.

⁹ Document of the Record and Pension Office 692686, RG 94. This document contains valuable information on many decorations.

¹⁰ GO 24.HdQRS, Signal Corps, 19 Mar. 1862.

lowing the war, the flag would become the personal property of the officer. In February 1863,¹¹ because of the many changes made necessary by the number of battles, it was directed that the flags be retained at Headquarters, Signal Corps. All officers were requested to deposit their silk flags at Headquarters where they would be decorated and kept until the cessation of hostilities. (In this connection it is interesting to note that the crossed signal flags badge of the Signal Corps of the Civil War, portrayed in several official and unofficial books, shows the flag of a decorated signal officer and not the official signal flag.)¹²

On 11 June 1862¹³ a bill was placed before the House of Representatives commending Major Anderson and his command for their defense of Fort Sumter. The bill also recommended that a suitable medal of gold be struck for the officers of the gallant command and a silver medal for the enlisted men. The bill died in committee.

Among the papers of General Benjamin Butler is another draft of a bill to be presented to Congress recommending that a "Reward of Valor" be granted for acts of gallantry to any individual belonging to the military service of the United States. Written in pencil on the draft are the words "filed at Lowell, Mass., 23 March 1863." The "Reward" was to be composed of six classes as follows:

- (1) A silver medal on a blue ribbon
- (2) A gold cross on a red ribbon
- (3) A silver eagle on a blue ribbon
- (4) A gold eagle on a red ribbon
- (5) A large silver star, with the arms of the United States in the center, in gold
- (6) The soldiers' medal in bronze, with the word Valor in gold letters on the face, on a red, white and blue ribbon.

A small clasp was to be worn on the ribbon with the name of the battle for which the reward was given; and, for each subsequent action in which the wearer was engaged, another clasp with the name of the battle would be added. The clasps to be alternate gold and silver. The 6th or highest order was to be given only by the President to such officers and soldiers who may, by name, have received the thanks of Congress for their service. Recipients of the award were to receive a diploma on parchment, signed by the Secretary of War, stating the class of award. No individual was to receive two for any one action, nor could any individual receive the awards out of order with the exception of

¹¹ GO 3, Hdqrs, Signal Corps, 7 Feb. 1863.

¹² Examples of this can be noted in the Atlas accompanying the *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* and in a colored chart showing Civil War Corps Badges, printed by the U.S. Engineers about 1890. Several unofficial publications also portray the wrong flag.

¹³ House Misc. Doc. No. 84, 37th Congress, 2nd Session.

the 6th order. It does not appear, however, that this bill ever came before Congress.

On 29 November 1862,¹⁴ officers of the command of the late Major General Philip Kearny adopted a medal in his honor (see Plates 1 and 2). It was resolved that all officers and soldiers who had served in battle under General Kearny in his Division, whose military record was without stain, and who had been promoted to the grade of commissioned officer previous to 1 January 1863, would be permitted to wear the "Kearny Medal". A committee made up of Major DeLacey, 37th New Jersey Volunteers, Major Mitchell, 101st New York Volunteers, and Lieutenant Briscoe, Engineer officer, contracted with Ball, Black & Company of New York, for its manufacture at \$15 each. About 317 were distributed.

Brigadier General D. B. Birney, who succeeded General Kearny in command, went still further when, on 13 March 1863,¹⁵ he directed that a "cross of valor" be awarded to those non-commissioned officers and enlisted men who had distinguished themselves in battle. The "cross," known as the Kearny cross (see Plates 1 and 2), was to be suspended from the left breast over the red patch (the Corps badge). It was stipulated that a recipient of the Kearny Cross could not receive the Kearny Medal. The directive was further amplified 11 days later¹⁶ when General Birney ordered that in addition to those who won the Division decoration for distinguishing themselves in battle, those who were present at the battles of Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Glendale, Malvern, Manassas, and Fredericksburg and who had always performed their duty in their company, could be awarded the decoration without performing any outstanding act of courage and daring. Two months later the 1st Division, 3d Corps, was paraded for the presentation of the medals. The general orders¹⁷ which listed the names of individuals deserving the award, oddly enough, listed two women, Mrs. Ann Etheridge, 5th Michigan Volunteers, and Mrs. Mary Tepe, 114th Pennsylvania Volunteers.¹⁸

In his order the General remarked as follows:

This cross is in honor of our old leader and the wearers of it will always remember his high standard of a true and brave soldier and will never disgrace it.

¹⁴ Document of the Record and Pension Office 692686, RG 94.

¹⁵ GO 25, 1st Div, 3d Corps, 13 Mar. 1863.

¹⁶ GO 48, 1st Div, 3d Corps, May 1863.

¹⁷ GO 51, 1st Div, 3d Corps, May 1863.

¹⁸ Mrs. Tepe is mentioned further (under "Tebe") in an article on the 114th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry contained in *MC&H, IV*, 42-44. The writer spent some time looking for the record of Mrs. Tepe in the records on file in The National Archives. Unfortunately, at that time, probably because of the variation in the spelling of the name, no record was identified.



PLATE 1. Obverse: Reading from left to right; Fort Sumter Medal, 4th Class; Fort Pickens Medal, 4th Class; Kearny Cross (bronze); Fort Pickens Medal, 3d Class; Butler's Medal for Colored Troops; 17th Army Corps Medal; Kearny Medal (gold).



PLATE 2. Reverse: Fort Sumter Medal, 4th Class; Fort Pickens Medal, 4th Class; Kearny Cross (bronze); Fort Pickens Medal, 3d Class; Butler's Medal for Colored Troops; 17th Army Corps Medal; Kearny Medal (gold).

In February 1863,¹⁹ Major General Rosecrans attempted "to establish a method of pointing out to this army and the Nation those officers and soldiers of this command [Department of the Cumberland], who shall distinguish themselves by bravery in battle, by courage, enterprise and soldierly conduct; and also to promote the efficiency of the service."

He ordered the following: (1) Every company in his command would keep a Roll of Honor on which would be entered the names of five privates most distinguished for bravery in battle, enterprise, endurance, soldierly conduct, and skill in the use of arms. The soldiers would be selected by the non-commissioned officers and privates in each company, by ballot, approved by the company commander. (2) Each regiment would keep a Regimental Roll of Honor, in which the names of ten corporals and ten sergeants would be entered. These were to be chosen by the commissioned officers, approved by the regimental commander. (3) In every brigade, a Brigade Roll of Honor would be kept on which would be inscribed the regimental rolls and, in addition, the names of four lieutenants, four captains, and two field officers, below the rank of colonel, most distinguished for gallantry in action, professional knowledge, skill, energy, and zeal in the performance of duty. (4) In each army corps would be kept a Roll of Honor composed of brigade rolls and, in addition, the names of general, field, and staff officers, who won special distinction by "noble and heroic conduct." Names could be stricken from the Rolls of Honor for falling below the standard, and vacancies arising therefrom would be filled from those qualifying under the aforementioned rules.

A Light Battalion was to be formed in each infantry and cavalry brigade from the Roll of Honor men. It was to be composed of three privates from each company, one commissioned officer, two sergeants, and three corporals from each regiment, and one field officer from each brigade. The detail from each regiment would constitute a company. The Battalion would be provided with the best rifled arms, revolving arms when possible, and was to be mounted. As a further reward, the Battalion was to be excused from picket duty; and, when not on detached service, it was to be encamped at Brigade Headquarters, fully armed and equipped, provided with water-proofs and shelter tents, and, when required, winter tents and necessary transportation.

The grandiose scheme was not received favorably by the War Department. On 24 April 1863,²⁰ General Rosecrans ordered that the organization of a Light Bat-

talion be discontinued. He managed, however, to salvage some of his plan by ordering the Roll of Honor to be continued. Men whose names appeared on the Roll were to wear a red ribbon, tied in the button hole or attached to the uniform coat over the left breast. The issue of first class arms would be made as promised.

Major General N. P. Banks, commanding the 19th Army Corps, followed in the steps of his fellow officers when, on 15 June 1863,²¹ after congratulating the troops before Port Hudson, Louisiana, on their success, he asked for 1,000 volunteers to lead a storming party. Officers who led the column were assured of just recognition by promotion, and all members of the gallant 1,000 were to receive a medal to commemorate the deed. As a further recognition, their names were to be placed on a Roll of Honor.

For over fifty years following the event there was almost constant agitation by individuals, societies, and in Congress to authorize the issuance of the promised medal to these volunteers of the Port Hudson storming party or "Forlorn Hope" as it was also called. The War Department ruled, however, that although the storming party was organized and ready the surrender of the Confederate forces made the assault unnecessary. Therefore, it was not thought proper to authorize the promised medals.

During June of that year, the Secretary of War promised an "appropriate Medal of Honor" for those who would reenlist at the expiration of their term of service.²² Despite this, no medal was ever adopted or procured, and no money was ever appropriated for the purpose. For years following the war there was considerable legislative action to authorize these promised medals. The Adjutant General of the Army said that it would be impossible to state exactly the number of medals required because many of the troops who would be entitled to the medal under the terms of the order were State troops. It was estimated that more than 25,000 medals would be necessary. Further, The Adjutant General believed that if a medal ever was authorized it should be entirely different from the Congressional

²¹ GO 49, Dept of the Gulf, 19th Army Corps, before Port Hudson, 15 June 1863.

²² GO 195, War Dept, 29 June 1863. (This promised medal should not be confused with the Congressional Medal of Honor, awarded in rare instances to individuals who volunteered to reenlist. A notable example of this was the Medal of Honor awarded to members of the 27th Maine Volunteers. The Secretary of War directed that these men be awarded the medal under the Act of 3 March 1863 which required service "in action," and this was done. Approximately 300 men had volunteered to remain in service but by error 864 medals were sent to the Governor of Maine for distribution to all members of the outfit. Just prior to World War I, a review board struck all names of the recipients from the Medal of Honor Roll.)

¹⁹ GO 19, Dept of the Cumberland, 14 Feb 1863.

²⁰ GO 90, Dept of the Cumberland, 24 Apr. 1863.

Medal of Honor in all respects and should be given a name so that it would be readily distinguishable from our highest award.

Four months later Major General James B. McPherson directed that "in order to encourage and reward the meritorious and faithful officers and men of this corps [17th Army Corps] a medal of honor, with appropriate device, has been prepared . . . will be presented . . . to all those who, by their gallantry in action and other soldier-like qualities, have most distinguished themselves or who may hereafter most distinguish themselves during the war." (see Plates 1 and 2)²³

The medal, made by Tiffany and Company of New York, although not specifically directed in general orders, appears to have been in two classes. Private George J. Reynolds, Company D, 15th Iowa Volunteers was awarded a gold medal of honor, 26 July 1864, for his gallant attempt to rescue the mortally wounded General McPherson.²⁴ Later orders awarded a silver or gold medal to deserving soldiers.

At about the same time, Major General Quincy A. Gillmore, commanding the Department of the South, directed that Medals of Honor for gallant and meritorious conduct during the operations before Charleston, South Carolina, July-September 1863, would be awarded to a number of the enlisted men of the command, not exceeding three percent, of those units that had been in action or on duty in the batteries or trenches.²⁵ On 4 November 1863 a newspaper reporter sent the following dispatch to the *New York Herald*:

General Gillmore has adopted the Napoleonic idea of awarding to such soldiers as deserve it, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the field, a medal of honor. Ball, Black & Co., of your city, are now engaged in getting up this testimonial from a successful general to his men. The medal, which will be of bronze, is to bear upon one side a representation, in relief, of Sumter in ruins, and upon the other a fac simile of the General's autograph; while the buckle to which the medal is to be attached will have upon it, neatly engraved, the name of the soldier to whom it is presented . . .

General Gillmore had 400 of these medals struck off (see Plate 3). A certificate embellished with facsimiles of both sides of the medal, was also given (see Plate 4).

In October 1864,²⁶ General Benjamin F. Butler contracted with Tiffany and Company and Ball, Black & Company of New York for a suitable medal to be presented to the Negro soldiers of the 25th Army Corps for their valorous part in the storming of New Market



PLATE 3. Contemporary drawing of the Gillmore Medal of Honor, 1863.

Heights and at Chaffins' Farm in September 1864. On 28 May 1865, he wrote to General Godfrey Weitzel, then commanding the 25th Corps, and forwarded forty-six medals for distribution. In his letter, he stated as follows:

Please seek out the deserving, and distribute them freely, as I would have done. They will be the only rewards the colored soldiers will get. They are not even allowed to march in review in the grand army triumph, and they ought not if they had been defeated as many times as the imbecility of its generals had led the Army of the Potomac to disaster. You will also confer a favor if you will let the recipients know that these medals came from me, as I promised them, and I desire that never to break a promise to that simple and guileless people.

The General had 200 medals struck off and distributed (see Plates 1 and 2). In 1892, General Butler, in his autobiography wrote as follows:²⁷

I had a medal struck of like size, weight, quality, fabrication and intrinsic value with those which Queen Victoria gave with her own hand to her distinguished private soldiers of the Crimea.

The obverse of the medal shows a bastion fort charged upon by negro soldiers, and bears the inscription "Ferro iis libertas preveniet." The reverse bears the words, "Campaign before Richmond," encircling the words, "Distinguished for Courage," while there was plainly engraved upon the rim, before its presentation, the name of the soldier, his company and his regiment. The medal was suspended by a ribbon of red, white, and blue, attached to the clothing by a strong pin, having in front an oak-leaf with the inscription in plain letters, "Army of the James." These I gave with my own hand, save where the recipient was in a distant hospital wounded, and by the commander of the colored corps after it was removed from my command and I record with pride that in that single action there were so many deserving that it called for a presentation of nearly two hundred. Since the war I have been fully rewarded by seeing the beaming eye of many a colorful comrade as he drew his medal from the innermost recesses of its concealment to show me.

On 24 January 1865, General O. O. Howard almost got on the bandwagon when an order was published in his name awarding silver medals of honor for distinguished service to several enlisted men.²⁸ However, a

²³ GO 30, 17th Army Corps, Dept of the Tennessee, 2 Oct. 1863.

²⁴ GO 8, 17th Army Corps, 26 July 1864.

²⁵ GO 94, Dept of the South, 28 Oct. 1863.

²⁶ Record and Pension Office Document 692686, RG 94.

²⁷ Benjamin F. Butler, *Butler's Book*, Boston, 1892.

²⁸ GO 4, Army of the Tennessee, 24 Jan. 1865.



Medal of Honor

Presented to

Private Elwood Miller

76th Regiment Pa. Vol. Co H.

L. H. Gillmore.

*Major General
Commanding Department
of the South*

PLATE 4. Certificate of the Gillmore Medal.

week later he stated in orders:²⁹

[The order] was issued under a misapprehension of the wishes of the commanding general. While he entertained a high regard for the young men whom the medals of honor are awarded, and believes they deserve substantial reward, yet, as there is no established method of extending the same principle of distribution from his own headquarters to the entire army, the said order is suspended. . . .

The State of Ohio recognized the soldiers' plight when, on 13 April 1865, a resolution was passed by its General Assembly to award to each veteran volunteer who re-enlisted from the State, a bronze medal, not to exceed eighty cents in cost, one and one half inches in diameter, containing the following:

Obverse: In bold relief, Ohio personified, crowning one of her soldiers with laurel. Emblems: wheat sheaf, eagle perched on shield, bearing State arms. In the background, a steamer and tented field, springing from the wand, which supports the liberty cap, a buckeye leaf. Clasp: a plain bar on which shall be raised the buckeye and laurel; the swivel of the clasp in form of a monogram U.S. Reverse: name of recipient engraved, with his regiment, battalion or battery, surrounded with a laurel wreath. The medal to be suspended by a piece of tricolored silk ribbon, and its artistic features to be equal to the "Crimean medal."

Unfortunately, this medal was not ready for distribution until after the cessation of hostilities and was not received by deserving individuals until they were out of uniform.

(Individual decorations of the Confederacy will be treated in a subsequent article.)

²⁹ GO 8, Army of the Tennessee, 31 Jan. 1865.

THE FIELD ARTILLERY OF THE CIVIL WAR

by Jac Weller

PART II

The seven smooth-bore field pieces and the three field rifles, described in Part I, together with the ammunition usually fired from them, accounted for far more than 90 percent of the battlefield rounds fired during the war. There were, however, many other types actually engaged, and literally dozens were produced experimentally. One should keep clearly in mind that the war was fought with the basic weapons already mentioned; modern museum exhibitions show far too great a proportion of the special guns and projectiles, interesting today but impractical for battlefield use in the 1860's. Some museums exhibiting Civil War artillery projectiles show all manner of bar shot and chain shot, segmented projectiles, oblong shot, fluted projectiles, and shells within shells.¹⁴ These types were in the main impractical; if used at all they were soon abandoned. Even the really first class British field pieces purchased by the Confederacy were not so important as is sometimes suggested. The blockade limited their number; ammunition for them, in most cases, had to be imported. The characteristics of the more important special guns are given in the table below. It must be stressed that these figures are based, in many cases, on very imperfect evidence and all should be used with great caution.

During the Civil War, siege guns traveled on their own carriages. In order to lessen the weight upon each wheel, no ammunition chest or gunners were carried on the limber. An auxiliary or traveling trunnion bed was placed on the cheeks, well back of the regular trunnion bed used in firing, so that the weight of the piece was distributed among all four wheels fairly evenly. In all, six standard siege pieces were used, mounted on three different sizes of siege carriages. These were the old 12-pounder, 18-pounder, and 24-pounder cast iron siege guns, the 8-inch siege howitzer, the 30-pounder Parrott rifle, and the 4.5-inch Ordnance Department (or Rodman) rifle. Although these were powerful weapons, they appeared in battle largely by accident. They weren't considered sufficiently mobile to travel with an army.¹⁵

In the retreat down the Peninsula during the Seven Days, the Union siege train was in action, particularly at Malvern Hill.¹⁶ At Shiloh, Grant had some 30-

pounder Parrotts in his camp.¹⁷ At Fredericksburg, both sides employed a few siege rifles in semi-permanent emplacements.¹⁸ Whenever an action was fought near a fortified place, the guns of the works would lend whatever aid they could, as at Belmont and in the fighting around Richmond.¹⁹ All in all, these heavy guns didn't play very important parts in major battles, although their use in sieges and in attacking harbor fortifications was frequent.

THE RIFLES

The idea of rifling old iron smooth-bores must have occurred to many in those days. In the larger sizes, the guns generally burst because of the greater strain of firing a cylindro-conoidal projectile rather than the lighter round shot. A simple remedy, and the cheapest, was to band the pieces as in the Parrott guns. Confederate Brooke rifles are almost indistinguishable at first glance from comparable Parrotts. In the early days of the war, both sides had field pieces that were rifled but not banded, both of iron and bronze; and these were used with reasonable success. Their ammunition was, however, decidedly uncertain. The Archer and the Burton projectiles, fired before First Manassas from recently rifled bronze guns in the hands of the Confederates, failed completely.²⁰ The James projectiles used by the Union artillery were more effective, both the 6-pounder and 12-pounder bronze smoothbore guns being rifled for them. The James projectiles for each of these guns weighed approximately twice that of the older spherical ammunition. Actually, the pieces could still be used with the old ammunition since the lands were wide and the grooves relatively shallow.

A fascinating individualist, Norman Wiard, produced for the Union armies some rifled steel pieces which bore his name. They came in at least two sizes. The use of these guns may have suffered because of the unpopularity of their inventor with the Ordnance Department.²¹ There were other American-made iron

¹⁷ These are now at Shiloh National Battlefield Park, with markers showing their positions in that battle.

¹⁸ J. C. Wise, *The Long Arm of Lee* . . . , 2 vols., Lynchburg, Va., 1915, I, 367, 370.

¹⁹ Stanley F. Horn, *The Army of Tennessee* . . . , New York, 1941, p. 65.

²⁰ Wise, *op. cit.*, I, 128.

²¹ Norman Wiard, *Great Guns: The Cause of Their Failure* . . . , New York, 1863; and *Inefficiency of Heavy Ordnance* . . . , Wash., 1865, *passim*. Several of his guns are preserved; 10-pounders at the Shiloh and the Chickamauga National Battlefield Parks, and a 6-pounder at West Point, No. 392.

¹⁴ General Henry L. Abbott's collection, donated to West Point in 1868, particularly. Described and illustrated in H. L. Abbott, "Siege Artillery in the Campaigns Against Richmond," in *Professional Papers of the Corps of Engineers*, No. 14, 1867.

¹⁵ Abbott, *op. cit.*, Appendix B.

¹⁶ *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, II, 391, 410-11.

MISCELLANEOUS NON-STANDARD FIELD RIFLES USED IN THE UNION AND CONFEDERATE ARTILLERY

Designation	Material	Diameter of Bore (inches)	Length of Piece (inches)	Weight of Piece (pounds)	Weight of Projectile (pounds)	Weight of Charge (pounds)	Muzzle Velocity (ft/sec)	Range at 5° Elevation (yards)
12-Pdr James	Cast bronze	3.67	60.0	875	12.0	.75	1,000	1,700
24-Pdr James	Cast bronze	4.62	78.0	1,750	24.0	1.50	1,000	1,800
6-Pdr Wiard	Cast steel	2.56	56.0	600	6.0	.60	1,300	1,800
10-Pdr Wiard	Cast steel	3.0	58.0	790	10.0	1.00	1,230	1,850
Small Sawyer	?	3.67	—	—	—	—	—	—
6-Pdr Whitworth	Steel, built up	2.15	70.0	700	6.0	1.00	1,550	2,750
12-Pdr Whitworth (breechloading)	Steel, iron, do	2.75	104.0	1,092	12.0	1.75	1,500	2,800
12-Pdr Whitworth (muzzle loading)	Steel, iron, do	2.75	84.0	1,000	12.0	2.00	1,600	3,000
12-Pdr Blakely	Steel, iron, do	3.40	59.0	800	10.0	1.00	1,250	1,850
Breechloading Armstrong	Steel, iron, do	3.00	83.0	918	12.0	1.25	1,300	2,100
Muzzleloading Armstrong	Steel, iron, do	3.00	76.0	996	12.0	1.25	1,350	2,200
Confederate Mt. Rifle	Cast bronze	2.25	44.0	225	3.0	.15	700	1,100

NOTE: This data has been compiled from various sources, and measurements of single pieces and projectiles. These guns were not standard. For instance, the writer has examined 12-pdr James rifles in three bore sizes and two lengths. The Armstrong 3-inch shells varied in weight from less than 10 pounds to more than 16. Range tables for these pieces are inadequate. The above data seem logical and consistent; however, they should not be taken as exclusively correct in any individual instance. A good deal of the above table is based on probability and data in connection with similar artillery used in the Civil War. Therefore, some of it is the result of considered and logical guessing.

rifles in use in the field. For instance, in early reports odd sized "Parrotts" are listed which were never made by that firm. General Abbott mentions a Hotchkiss rifle and two sizes of Sawyers.

There were at least two bronze pieces made originally as rifles and not converted from smooth-bores. One of these was the Confederate 2.25-inch mountain rifle, too small for effective use in the field.²² The other was the James rifle, similar to the piece converted from a 6-pounder smooth-bore gun. These newly made James rifles embodied minor improvements,²³ but they were not a complete success, largely due to short barrel life. The James was perhaps the most widely used of all the rifles not actually adopted. The Confederacy produced similar new bronze rifles in New Orleans early in the war.

The imported English rifled field guns were relatively few in number but extremely useful to the Confederacy. There were three different makes: Blakelys, Whitworths, and Armstrongs, each made in at least two types. Six different models of these guns survive to prove this.²⁴ The contemporary references to these pieces, however, are most unsatisfactory and unilluminating. Both surviving Blakely weapons were muzzle-loaders of built-up construction involving steel and

wrought iron. They were lighter than the 10-pounder Parrotts but of 3.5-inch bore, the projectiles weighing about 10 pounds. One type used a shell with six rows of two lead studs in each row. A second type was of approximately the same size but took different ammunition. Five flanges were cast into each of its projectiles to fit special fluted rifling. The spin of both these shells was surer than American types, since satisfactory operation was not dependent upon expansion of a driving band after explosion of the propelling charge. There were also Blakely breech-loaders, but these, apparently, saw little service. None survive either here or abroad.

The two common types of Whitworth field guns had the same bores: hexagonal, 2.75 inches across flats. They fired a bolt or shell weighing about 12 pounds. The first type was a breech-loader; it could handle fixed ammunition. However, the pieces brought in after 1863 were muzzle-loaders. The breech-loaders were satisfactory from a functional standpoint, but in those days before recoil mechanisms the muzzle-loaders were actually simpler and quicker to load. These Whitworth guns were the most publicized pieces of the Army of Northern Virginia. The Union had a number of them given to it in 1861 but never used them in action.²⁵

Apparently, the Armstrong guns were both breech-loaders and muzzle-loaders. Just before Appomattox a battery is said to have arrived in Richmond and to have been captured before it fired a shot.²⁶ The muzzle-loading type took a studded projectile 3 inches in diameter and about 12 pounds weight, with three rows of three small brass studs. The breech-loaders fired a 10-pound,

²² C. S. A. War Dept., *The Ordnance Manual* . . . , 1st ed., Richmond, Va., or Charleston, S. C., 1863, p. 9; also two specimens are at West Point, Nos. 7513, 7514.

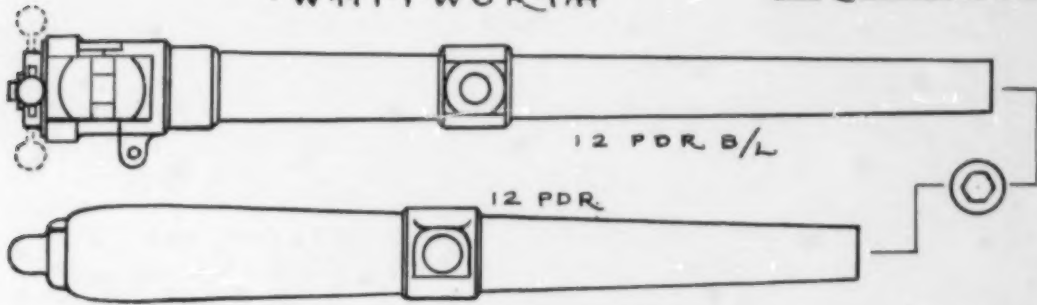
²³ Specimens are in several places; West Point, No. 390.

²⁴ Armstrong breech-loader is at Petersburg National Battlefield Park; muzzle-loader at West Point, No. 228. Both types of Blakely muzzle-loaders are at West Point, Nos. 229, 231. Confederate Museum has a six groove Blakely. Breech-loading Whitworths are at Gettysburg National Battlefield Park, Petersburg National Battlefield Park, and West Point, No. 226. Muzzle-loading Whitworth is at Confederate Museum.

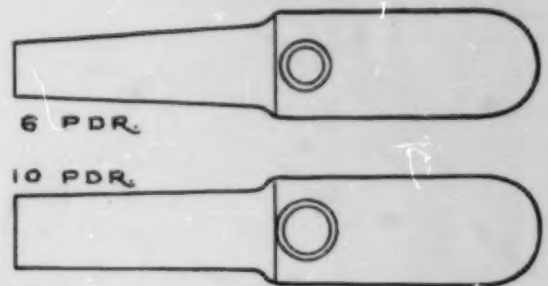
²⁵ Abbott, *op. cit.*, p. 105.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 106.

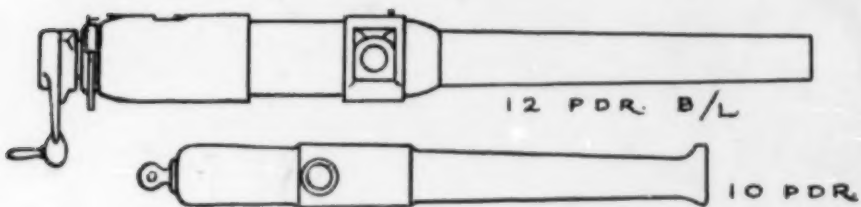
WHITWORTH

RIFLES

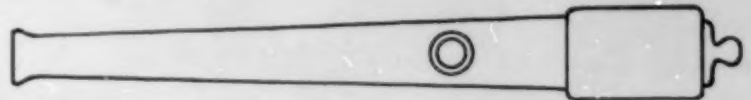
WIARD



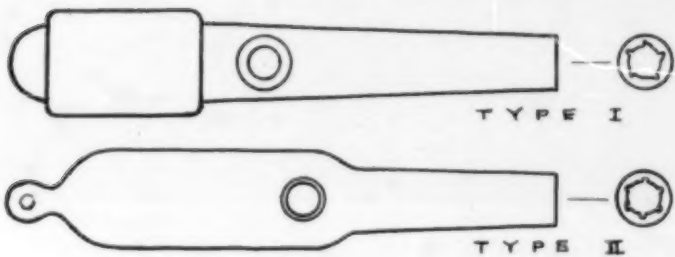
ARMSTRONG



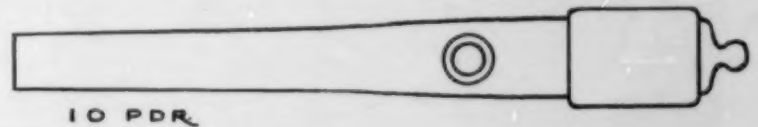
12 PDR BROOKE



10 PDR BLAKELY



PARROTT

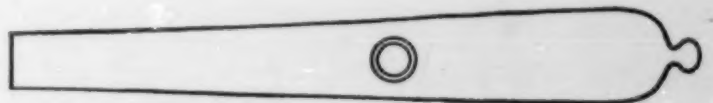


10 PDR



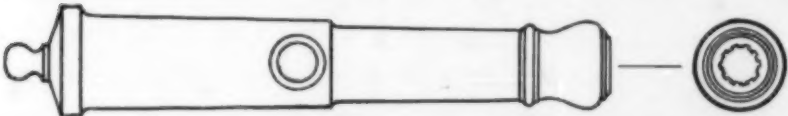
20 PDR

3 INCH ORDNANCE

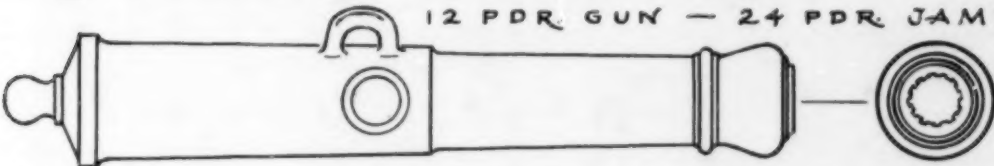


10 PDR

6 PDR GUN RIFLED TO 12 PDR JAMES



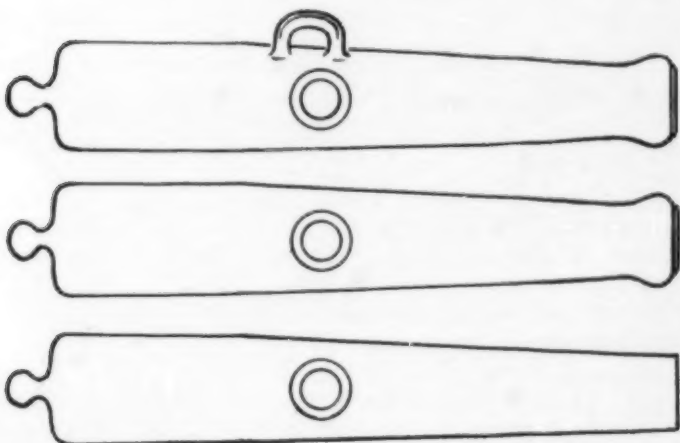
12 PDR GUN - 24 PDR JAMES

HOWITZERS

24 PDR

12 PDR

32 PDR

TYPES
NAPOLEON GUN-HOWITZER-12 PDR

3 PDR

CONFEDERATE
MOUNTAIN
RIFLE12 PDR
MTN.

Rm



Six-pounder Wiard rifle, probably at the Washington Arsenal. National Archives photograph B-5061.

3-inch projectile with lead driving bands about its middle. These projectiles were equipped with special fuses that could be set for time explosion, or impact explosion, or left to act as solid shot. They sometimes contained shrapnel pellets. The breech-loading Armstrongs had many grooves of a modern type; the lands cut positively into the lead driving bands. But the guns were complicated and difficult to produce, and their ammunition must have taxed even the relatively advanced manufacturing skill of England. It would have been impossible for the factories of the Confederacy to make such fancy ammunition for whole armies.

In each of the three makes discussed above, there was also a larger piece than generally accompanied an army in the field. The 70-pounder, 5-inch Whitworth rifle that did such a good job for the Confederates at Belmont is well known. However, there was a 30-pounder Blakely rifle, or at least a rifle firing a 30-pound projectile of the Blakely six-row studded type. And, similarly, there was a 16-pounder Armstrong.²⁷ Further, there were at

least two Whitworth rifles smaller than the common 12-pounders. Collections of projectiles from the war include both 3-pounder and 6-pounder shells.²⁸ One of these rifles is said to be now in the Artillery Museum at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, though apparently none remain in the East; the writer has not examined the Fort Sill collection.

Nothing is more intriguing in the study of Confederate artillery than these imported English field pieces; however, their battlefield importance was limited. All three makes were reported in use in the Army of Northern Virginia, but they never added up to more than three percent of the pieces ready for action.²⁹

A variation of the standard smooth-bore bronze gun was forced upon the Confederacy when they cast almost identical pieces out of iron. The iron 12-pounder howitzer is listed in their ordnance manual,³⁰ whereas other

²⁷ U. S. Ordnance Dept., *The Ordnance Manual*. Maj. T. T. S. Laidley, ed., 3d ed., Phila., 1862, refers to a 4-inch Armstrong; projectile in author's collection. Brig. Gen. Q. A. Gillmore, in *Official Report to the United States Engineer Department of the Siege and Reduction of Fort Pulaski . . .*, New York, 1862, lists two 24-pounder Blakely rifles as captured. A projectile of approximately this size in the author's collection.

²⁸ There are two 6-pounder Whitworth rifle (2.125 in. across flats) projectiles in the West Point collection. There is one 3-pounder Whitworth rifle (1.625 in. across flats) in the author's collection.

²⁹ Wise, *op. cit.*, particularly his Maryland campaign table, I, 284-86, and after Gettysburg, p. 707.

³⁰ Confederate *Manual*, *op. cit.*, pp. 9, 13 for 12-pounder iron howitzer. A 24-pounder iron howitzer was taken in Pulaski. Iron 6-pounder guns, 12-pounder howitzers, and 12-pounder Napoleons were captured at end of war in small quantities; Abbott, *op. cit.*, p. 181.

types are listed among weapons captured early in the war. Apparently, the using services did not accept the substitutes readily, though General Gorgas was pleased with them.

QUICK-FIRING TYPES

During the war, experimental artillery of the quick-firing type was used on both sides.³¹ The inventions were numerous; their total battlefield worth was nil. Perhaps they may be called ancestors of the machine gun, though all were mounted on field artillery carriages or their garrison equivalents.

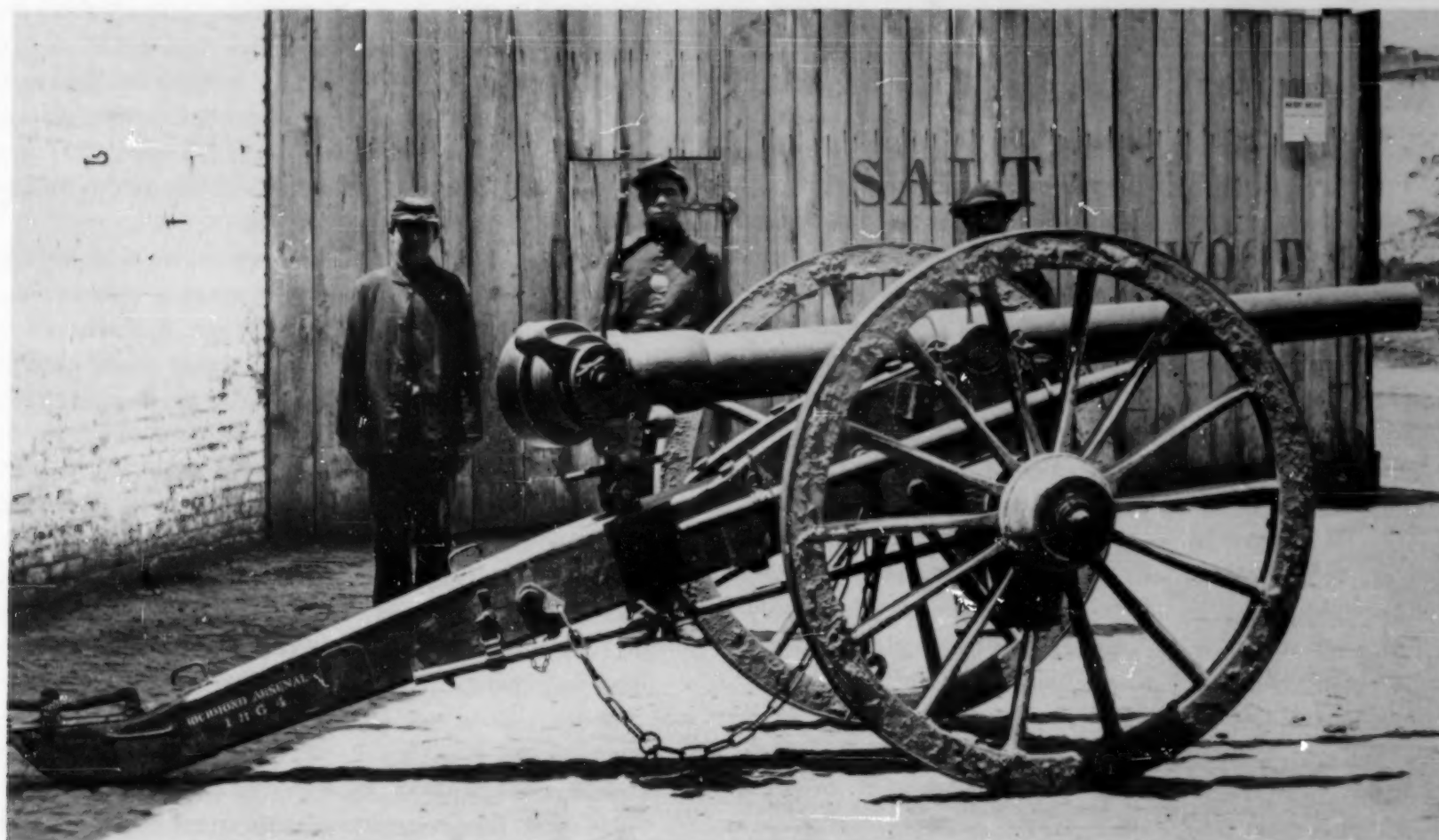
The Union army tried out the first Gatling guns, the invention of a North Carolina medical man living in Ohio who was already noted for new types of farm machinery. A few were used briefly in action by Butler on the James River. Their successful operation depended upon reliable metallic cartridges which were not then available. The Requa volley gun was also used by Union forces, some being set up in the defenses on Morris and Folly Islands outside Charleston.³² There was also a "coffee-mill" gun patented by Wilson Ager that saw even less service, though it apparently could sustain a rapid fire for some time.

³¹ George M. Chinn, *The Machine Gun*, part III, chapters 1-5.

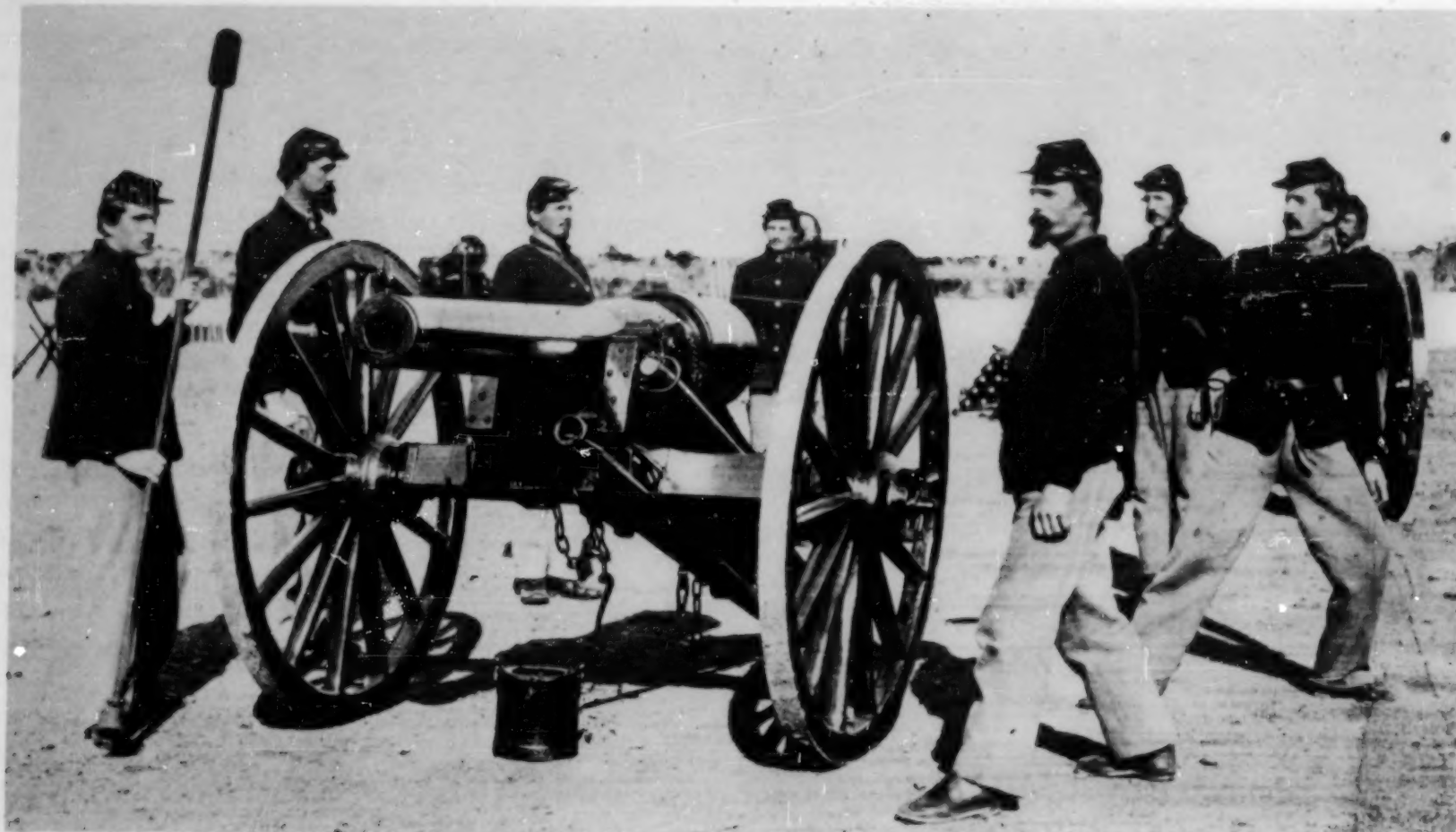
³² Samuel Jones, *The Siege of Charleston . . .*, New York, 1911, p. 255.

The Confederacy had on hand some Vandenberg-type volley guns made in England and some over-grown revolvers on field carriages. At Seven Pines, 3 May 1862, they actually used the fabulous Williams gun, which was supposed to fire up to 65 one-pound shot per minute from combustible cartridges and separate percussion caps. The only other recorded major appearance in battle of these pieces was at Blue Springs in East Tennessee, 10 October 1863. It seems probable that if they had really been effective, both their number and their use in battle would have been greatly increased.

The quick-firing Williams gun and the breech-loading Armstrong rifle, with its modern ammunition, were certainly far in advance of the pieces actually in use on the battlefield. This war was the first in which the Industrial Revolution made itself felt. However, the armies had not yet learned how to take full advantage of science. The ideas were there in 1861, but the organization and procedures for development and field testing had not been worked out. A great deal that was eventually used in ordnance materiel was then known, but the techniques for employing the knowledge successfully had not been developed. The Confederate Ordnance Bureau had the personnel for successful research but neither the time nor the facilities. Experimentation was almost completely dropped by the Union Ordnance Department



Twelve-pounder breechloading Whitworth rifle, marked on trail "Richmond Arsenal, 1864." Library of Congress photograph.



Twenty-pounder Parrott rifle. Library of Congress Photograph.

during the war years in favor of more important things.³³ Furthermore, it is doubtful if industry at that time, even in the North, could have supplied the more complicated artillery pieces and ammunition in the tremendous quantities needed.

The basic difference between the practical Civil War artillery and that of the twentieth century lay in the absence of smokeless propellants, high explosive bursting charges, recoil mechanisms, breech-loading guns, fixed ammunition, built-up steel barrels, and steel carriages. Yet all of these innovations were known to the progressive officers in Ordnance on both sides. Gun cotton had been known for some time; the significance of the extent of nitrating the cellulose fibers was also understood. It had been developed as a propellant and was actually adopted in Austria before 1865, and was being used as a high explosive bursting charge for mines.³⁴ General Gorgas and his able lieutenants needed only time to work out the manufacturing details of recoil mechanisms for field pieces. Some Whitworth field rifles

were not only breech-loading but were sometimes actually loaded with fixed ammunition—tinned sheet-iron cartridge cases.³⁵ Numerous people had made built-up steel field pieces; the basic idea behind modern radial expansion of gun tubes for strength was knowingly used by Dahlgren and Rodman in their hollow cast guns cooled from the inside.³⁶ Steel carriages had been tried in the field before the war began.

Today a scientific discovery in any field that might be of use in battle moves rather quickly by established procedures through preliminary design, manufacture and trial of the pilot model, redesign, field trials, modification, final production, and issue to the using service. In addition, millions are spent in primary research. The best brains of industry cooperate freely in any way they can, both with the Ordnance Department and with normally competing companies. All this was unknown in 1861. During the Mexican War the industrial facilities of the United States had not been greatly involved. Suddenly, in the Civil War, industrial power and commercial transportation became of tremendous importance. In field artillery, the change brought about by industrial expansion was more quantitative than qualitative. Most of the materiel actually used in the field was fairly simply manufactured. The quantities used, however, exceeded anything known before.

(To be continued)

³³ William E. Birkhimer, *Historical Sketch of the . . . Artillery . . .*, Wash., D. C., 1884, p. 267.

³⁴ Alexander L. Holley, *A Treatise on Ordnance and Armor . . .*, New York, 1865, appendix on Guncotton, pp. 783 ff.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 543.

³⁶ Thomas J. Rodman, *Reports of Experiments on the Properties of Metals for Cannon . . .*, Boston, 1861, p. 96.

THE PLATES

SOLDIERS OF THE OÑATE EXPEDITION, 1597-1598

(Plate No. 73)

The colonization of what is now the southwestern part of the United States began with the expedition of Don Juan de Oñate. Armed with royal authority to explore, pacify and colonize the territory of New Mexico, Oñate left his base in Durangos, Mexico, in August 1597. On 30 April 1598, near the site of the present city of El Paso, Texas, he formally took possession of the territory, and in the early autumn of that year he founded his capital, San Gabriel del Yunque, near the modern city of Santa Fe. From that city he conducted his explorations and promoted the colonization of the province until he resigned in 1607.

Fortunately there is considerable evidence concerning the appearance of the soldiers who accompanied Oñate. Oñate himself made a list of the arms and equipment which he provided personally, and other officers, such as Captain Don Luís de Velasco, made full inventories of all the goods that they took with them. Velasco's list is particularly complete, and for that reason it has been used as the basis of the present plate. Among other things, this list included: "A standard of figured white Castilian silk, with fringes and trimmings of gold and crimson silk, which has stamped on one side the pictures of Our Lady and Saint John the Baptist. Encircling these two figures is painted the rosary of Our Lady with large gold beads, and at their feet the escutcheon and arms of the governor. On the other side it has the figure of the lord Saint James, with an inscription encircling it which says *Sic ut sanguino centa*, and at the feet of the horse of the lord Saint James the escutcheon and arms of the Velascos, with large tassels trimmed with gold and crimson silk. . . .

Item: . . . three complete suits of armor, to arm himself and two other soldiers in suits of armor with tassets, bevor, and helmet, all complete, with nothing lacking.

Item: Three wheel lock arquebusses with large and small powder horns [flasks], bullet screws, moulds, and all the rest that pertains to each one.

Item: Three sets of horse armor of buckskin, lined with undressed leather, for the flanks, foreheads, breasts, necks—all, without anything lacking.

Item: A halberd, garnished with yellow velvet and purple tassels, and all studded with nails, which he bought for his sergeant to carry. . . .

Item: A sword and a gilded dagger with their waist belts stitched with purple, yellow, and white silk.

Item: One horseman's broadsword with shoulder belt, and two shields for defense against arrows.

Item: Two trooper's saddles of Cordova leather, with housings of blue flowered Spanish cloth bound with Cordovan leather, all complete with loose stirrups.

Item: Two estradiotas saddles of Cordovan leather, with the stirrups, bridles, girths, halters, and reins that go with them, one estradicete and two troopers' bridles."¹

In addition, he took six complete suits of clothes, all of different styles, colors and materials, along with additional doublets, caps, shirts, handkerchiefs and socks. All are described in detail.²

Oñate furnished, among other things, 6 light cavalry saddles, 6 troopers' saddles, 6 leather shields, 6 lances, 12 halberds, 6 *cotas* (coats of mail or suits of armor, the meaning is ambiguous), 6 *escarzelas* (cuishes or tassets), 6 helmets with bevors (*moriones con sus sobrevistas*), 6 sets of horse armor, 6 arquebusses, 6 swords and daggers, 2 complete corselets, 2 stands of arms, and 6 buckskin jackets.³

In depicting the various types of soldiers who participated in this expedition, an attempt has been made to indicate the various items mentioned in these lists in their logical groupings. Although it is not entirely clear in one or two instances whether mail or plate armor was intended, it is known that both were used, and so both have been shown. The phrase "helmets with their bevors" has been interpreted to mean a burgonet with a separate bevor, and so the dismounted lancer has been illustrated with such a headpiece. It could, however, have referred somewhat euphemistically to a closed helmet. The helmet worn by the arquebusier is based upon a specimen found on the site of San Gabriel and now in the Museum of New Mexico. Only the bowl of this helmet now remains. It may have been worn as it now exists as a defense under a cloth hat, or it may have had one or two additional plates attached to it in the occipital region and been worn by itself.⁴

H. Charles McBarron, Jr.

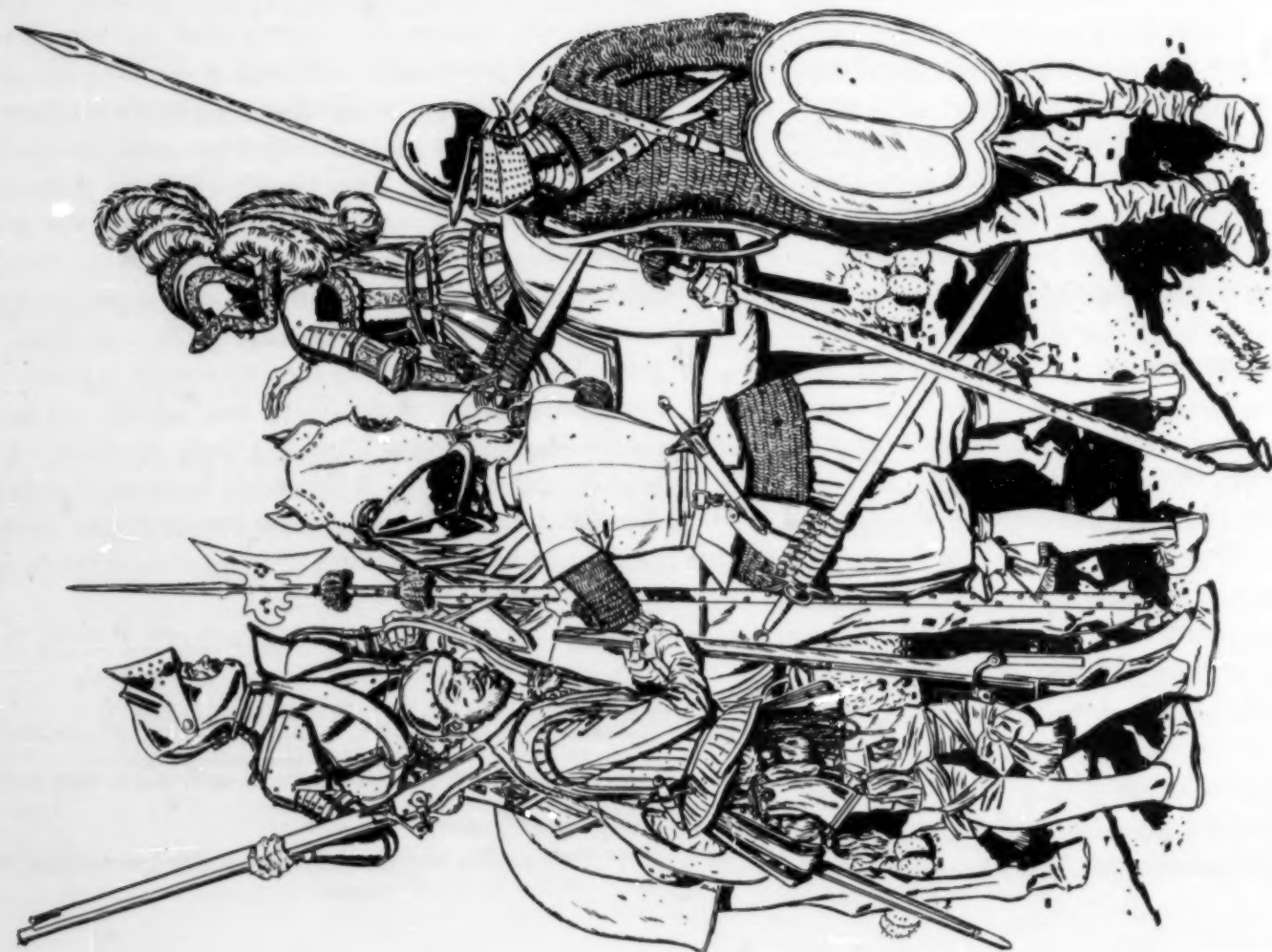
Harold L. Peterson

¹ Charles Wilson Hackett, editor, *Historical Documents Relating to New Mexico, Nueva Vizcaya, and Approaches Thereto, to 1773*, 3 vols., Washington, 1923-1927, I, 428-433.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*, 228, 229.

⁴ For photographs and a description of the San Gabriel salade, see *MC&H*, IV, 47, 48.



Harquebuisier

Sergeant

Captain Velasco

Lanceer, dismounted



Private, Bn. Co.

Officer, Grenadier Co.

Private, En. Co.

Sergeant, Bn. Co.

Oñate Expedition, 1597-1598

British 60th Foot (Royal-American Regiment), 1756-1760

60th BRITISH FOOT (ROYAL AMERICAN REGIMENT), 1756-1760

(Plate No. 74)

Braddock's disaster on the Monongahela in 1755 led the British Parliament to take an unusual step. Despite protests about the dangers of alien mercenaries, it authorized the raising of a regiment of four battalions for service in America, to be recruited principally from among the German and Swiss settlers of Pennsylvania and Maryland. As many as fifty of its officers could be foreign Protestants, commissioned to serve only in America. The order raising the regiment was dated 4 March 1756, and its first name was the 62nd, or Royal American Regiment of Foot.¹

Command of the 1st and 2nd Battalions was given to Henry Bouquet and Frederick Haldimand, respectively; both were Swiss professionals of real ability. They, and other officers, came to America in the spring of 1756 to recruit. By the end of that year all four battalions had been raised and partially filled; in December, for example, Bouquet marched into Philadelphia at the head of 547 soldiers of his battalion and requested quarters there. The Earl of Loudoun was the regiment's first Colonel-in-Chief.²

In February 1757 the Royal Americans were redesignated the 60th Foot.³ Thereafter the four battalions played a prominent part in virtually all the major campaigns of the French and Indian War. Battalions, at one time or another, were at Louisburg, on the Pennsylvania frontier, in South Carolina, in various parts of Canada, in Virginia, and at Martinique and Havana.

¹ Henry M. Chichester and George Burges-Short, *The Records and Badges of . . . the British Army*, 2d ed., London, 1899, p. 666. The standard history of the regiment is Lewis Butler, *The Annals of the King's Royal Rifle Corps*, 5 vols., London. See also Col. J. F. C. Fuller, *British Light Infantry in the Eighteenth Century*, London, 1925, pp. 97-99.

² Loudoun's commission as such, dated 24 December 1755, is usually considered the birthday of the regiment.

³ The regiment does not appear ever to have been called the *Loyal Americans*, despite some British accounts.

In 1763 the 3rd and 4th Battalions were disbanded, but the other two remained in this country until 1775.

Designed to be part colonial corps—part foreign legion, the Royal Americans were unorthodox in both their organization and equipment. Each battalion had its grenadier company, but there is record of only one light company for the entire regiment, raised in 1759. Bouquet's writings, in particular, contain many references to novel methods of drill and accouterment, and it is probable that the men wore at different times many of the garments of the frontier. Among such, perhaps, were the "green leggings with red garters" recorded in one of the regimental histories. About these irregularities, however, we know altogether too little, and we must fall back on the regiment's issue clothing.

Being royal, the 60th Foot had blue facings, but it wore no lace for possibly as long as 1768. There is no contemporary picture of the uniform of the Royal Americans for their first five years, nor have any articles of dress from that period survived. Hence only the Royal Warrants of 1768 give us a clue to the grenadier cap and other details.

As early as February 1757, the newspapers of New York and Philadelphia carried notices of deserters from the regiment, and these supplement our meagre knowledge. Red waistcoats and leather breeches are often mentioned, for example; apparently, this combination was the field uniform. Brown canvas marching gaiters were common, although white dress gaiters were probably used on formal occasions.

The 60th Foot is today the King's Royal Rifle Corps, one of the most celebrated regiments in the United Kingdom.

Frederick E. Ray, Jr.

Frederick P. Todd

UNITED STATES NAVAL OFFICERS AND SEAMEN, DRESS UNIFORMS, 1812-1815

(Plate No. 75)

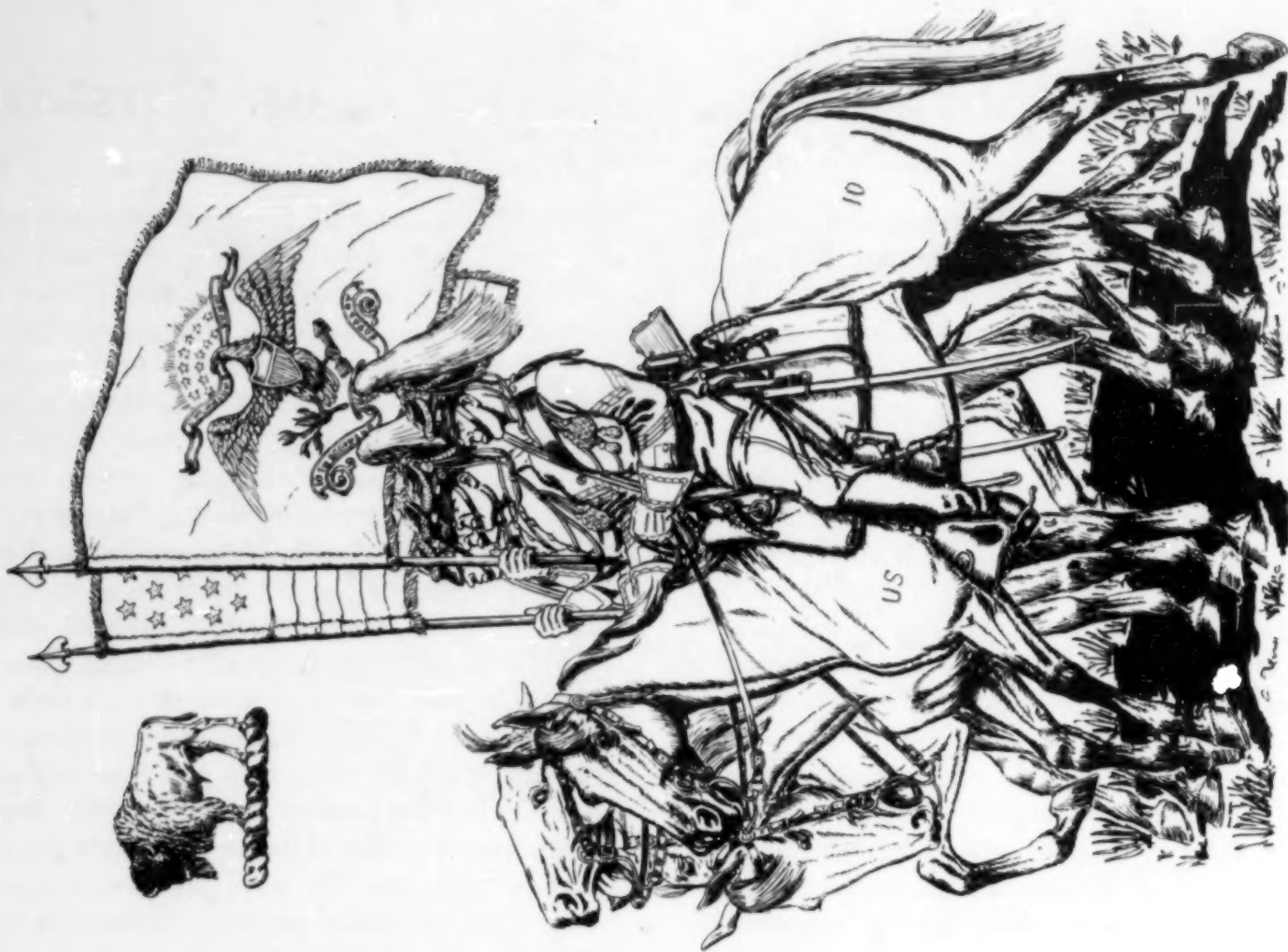
The clothing worn by American naval officers and seamen in battle and ordinary duties aboard ship during the War of 1812 has been illustrated in Plate No. 6 of this series. Like the earlier drawing, the present one is based, in the main, on contemporary paintings. For example, the officer on the right is wearing a uniform shown by Sully in his portrait of Captain Charles Stewart,

painted 1811-12. It is somewhat more flamboyant than the rather sober dress of Jarvis' portraits of Hull, McDonough, and others, painted at the end of the War and represented here by the other officer.

The two high-hatted seamen wear what was probably the ordinary seamen's dress toward the end of the War. The third sailor, with the striped ticking trousers, has



United States Naval Officers and Seamen, Dress Uniforms, 1812-1815



Standards of the 10th U. S. Cavalry, 1888-1890

on the sort of clothing one might find during the first five or ten years of the 19th century, but which no doubt overlapped the War era. Of course, seamen's clothing of these times was very loosely regulated; much was left up to the desires of the individual ship's captain.

It is quite possible that red vests were usual among these seamen. When the *United States* reached New York with her prize the *Macedonian*, her entire crew was issued new uniforms described as consisting of "a blue jacket, a scarlet waistcoat, neck-handkerchiefs, and glazed hats."¹ This coincides with the dress of the sailors shown at the Battle of Lake Erie in Jarvis' portrait of Perry, painted in 1816, as well as with other sources.

There must have been a great similarity between American and British seamen in the matter of dress. The captain of an American privateer is recorded as mistaking seamen of the *Constitution* for English sailors until his attention was called to the "eagle buttons" they were wearing. In another instance, a powder boy in the Royal Navy was able to pass as an American merely by covering his buttons with blue cloth. Maclay, whose article has been cited, says that "the only uniformity that existed in the dress of the American seamen so as to distinguish them from the British seems to have been in wearing the shirt open at the neck, with the corners thrown back, and on these corners were embroidered the

stars of the American flag, with the British flag underneath."²

There is an excellent article on the dress of Nelson's sailors by Cecil King, in *The Sphere*, London, of 23 November 1938, with several contemporary paintings reproduced in color. King considered red waistcoats to be typical of British seamen of the period. The dress of the crew of the *Guerrière* when captured by the *Constitution* in 1812 has been described by a member: "After breakfast on Sabbath morning it was common to muster the entire crew on the spar-deck, dressed as the fancy of the captain might dictate; sometimes in blue trousers; at other times in blue jackets, scarlet vests, and blue or white trousers, with bright anchor buttons glancing in the sun, and our black glossy hats ornamented with black ribbons, and the name of our ship painted on them."³

Maclay states that "the seamen of both countries at this time allowed their hair to grow long, and tied in a cue behind." Yet a caricature of 1808 shows three American sailors and none of them have pigtails.⁴ The same artist, however, put one on a British sailor in an 1813 drawing. The four whaling prints by John H. Clark, published in London by Edward Orme in 1813, are fine sources for sailor's dress of the times. Few, if any, of the men have cues, however.

H. Charles McBarron, Jr.

¹ Quoted in Edgar S. Maclay, "Navy Costumes," in *Harper's Weekly*, 15 April 1893.

² *Ibid.*

³ Quoted in *ibid.*

⁴ *History of American Graphic Humor*, plate 77.

STANDARDS OF THE 10th U. S. CAVALRY, 1888-1890

(Plate No. 76)

In 1866 an "Act to Increase and Fix the Military Establishment of the United States," provided, "that to the six regiments of cavalry now in service, there shall be added four regiments, two of which shall be composed of colored men." These latter two became the 9th and 10th Regiments of Cavalry of the Regular Army.¹

Colonel B. H. Grierson was appointed to command the Tenth Cavalry and, with one other officer, constituted the initial muster roll which bore the entry "Recruits required 1092." By July of 1867 the regiment mustered eight companies with an aggregate strength of 25 officers and 702 men. By October of the same year the regiment mustered its full complement of Field and Staff and twelve companies.²

As originally organized, the companies (designation changed to "troop" in 1881) were mounted as follows: A, B, C, D, E, G, I, and K, all bays; F, grays; H, blacks;

L, sorrels (chestnuts); and M, mixed. The Field and Staff were also "mixed," while troop trumpeters, color party and, when organized, the band were mounted on grays. Shortly after the Spanish American War the mounts for the color party were changed to blacks which the regiment felt to be more in keeping with their name, "Buffalo Soldiers." This information was obtained in the main from Colonel T. A. Roberts and Colonel J. C. King, both USA (Ret.). Both officers served for many years with the Tenth. While neither joined until some years after the period which the plate depicts, both are steeped in knowledge of the history, traditions and mores of "The Tenth." Colonel Roberts was one of the first officers of the regiment to be wounded in the attack on San Juan Hill, 1898.

From 1866 to 1884 the silken colors, standards and guidons issued to regiments were from the stock left

on hand after the close of the War between the States. These had painted designs and had deteriorated to such an extent that they were "unfit for issue." In that year, 1884, the Quartermaster General began to manufacture and issue the embroidered colors and standards previously authorized. In 1885, however, he submitted samples and specifications for a new cavalry standard embroidered on a field of yellow silk, replacing the former blue just as scarlet has replaced yellow in the Artillery.³ The new color and design were approved 8 February 1886, and subsequently prescribed in general orders of 13 April 1887. Finally, during the same year, cavalry regiments were authorized a National Standard in addition to the regimental; both were of fringed silk but without the cords and tassels included in the trimmings for the larger colors of Artillery and Infantry regiments.⁴

The standards shown in Plate 76 are also based on a photograph of the interior of the Regimental Officers' Club at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, which shows them in the place of honor over the mantel piece, crossed above a buffalo head.⁵ Both measured 4 feet on the fly and 3 feet on the lance. The lance measured 9 feet, 6 inches, including its metal spear and ferrule.⁶

The National Standard had "10th REGIMENT U.S. CAVALRY" embroidered in yellow silk block letters on the center (red) stripe. The Regimental Standard differed from the later pattern of 19 March 1890 in the bends of the upper and lower scrolls, in the foliated trim of the latter, in the details of the plumage and talons of the eagle, and in that the 1887 pattern included the word "REGIMENT" on the lower scroll whereas that of 1890 did not.⁷

With the exception of the carbine sling (Model 1874), the horse equipments and cavalry accouterments shown were those adopted in 1885 pursuant to the recommendations of the Cavalry Equipment Board of 1884.⁸

¹ Major Edward L. N. Glass, *The History of the Tenth Cavalry, 1866-1921*, Tucson, Ariz., 1921, p. 11.

² *Ibid.*, p. 13f.

³ Report of the QMG for year ending 30 June 1885, p. 259f.

⁴ QMG, "Drawings and Specifications for Clothing, Camp and Garrison Equipage," cumulative 1876-1893.

⁵ Glass, *op. cit.*, p. 145. The number of stars in the National Standard and the design of the Regimental Standard correspond to the 1887 specifications for each. The Club building and the contents, including these and other sets of standards of the Tenth, were destroyed by fire in the 1930's. A photograph of a similar Regimental Standard (Model 1887) of the 4th Cavalry appears in Plate XV of Gherardi Davis, *The Colors of the United States Army, 1789-1912*. The author is primarily indebted to Mary Dee Larter for a complete check of official orders, specifications, etc., concerning the cavalry standards of this period.

⁶ GO 31, AGO, 1887, par. 2790.

⁷ Specifications No. 286, QMG, 1890-93, canceling those of 7 July 1886.

Some articles recommended by the Boards of 1872 and 1874 survived the test of field service to the satisfaction of the cavalry arm and were continued unchanged. These included the gray saddle blanket with a yellow 6-inch "US" in the center and 3-inch yellow stripes, 3 inches from the ends.⁹ The belt plate was still the Model 1872 pattern (3.5 inches x 2.2 inches), a raised "US" within a raised oval and raised edges. The McKeever cartridge box, formerly experimental, was now standard, "only one box being worn by each trooper." The minor details of the bridle, such as buckles, width of straps and the rosette with raised center and interlocking letters "USA," were unchanged.

Improvements adopted included the following: The Shoemaker bit with raised brass "US" bosses was standard; the McClellan saddle was built on a slightly thinner tree; the hooded stirrups were wider (5½ inches) and deeper (4½ inches); the girth was made of braided hair instead of blue webbing; the saber slings (14 inches and 28 inches long) were riveted to a modified Stuart attachment, a single slotted brass plate with suspension hook and spring catch; the pistol holster, worn on right hip, would carry the Colt, the Schofield-Smith and Wesson revolver; the saber knot was 15½ inches long; and its discarded tassel had been returned.

Halters and halter ties were not used at dress formations, but the 30-inch coat straps could not be removed from the saddle (a leather "stop" was riveted 10 inches from the buckle end) and were looped, wrapped and buckled in the last hole.¹⁰

The arms were the revolver, the Model 1860 Cavalry saber, and the Model 1873, or Model 1884, Springfield carbine.

The Buffalo "on a wreath of the colors" was adopted as the crest of the regimental coat of arms in recognition of the name "Buffalo Soldiers" bestowed by the Indians. Apparently this name was first used in the early 1870's during the Tenth's long (20 years) service in the Southwest.¹¹ The regiment was reorganized in 1950 as the 510th Tank Battalion and is presently stationed in Germany.

Harry Larter

⁸ GO 73, AGO, 1 July 1885. See also GO 60, AGO, 1872, and "Report of Cav. Equip. Board 1874," published as Ordnance Memo in 1874.

⁹ A different method of folding the saddle blanket brings the yellow stripe across the back and just under the rear of the saddle bars instead of along the lower edge on the off side as it was previously used.

¹⁰ Col. T. A. Roberts, to author.

¹¹ Glass, *op. cit.*, p. 19. Colonel Fairfax Downey, in his *Indian Fighting Army* (p. 25), attributes the name to "their woolly hair and shaggy hide coats they wore on winter campaigns." The latter were actually made of buffalo hides.

COLLECTOR'S FIELD BOOK

MEMOIRS OF CUBA, 1898

I am sending you a little watercolor of me in the trenches outside of Santiago, Cuba, in 1898 with the 71st New York. We were on a ridge surrounding Santiago that was known throughout the Fifth Army Corps as "Misery Hill," and is still so known to those of us who are left.

We were dirty, we were lousy, and one day even our sick list of 750 men was the lowest in the Brigade; our major was brigade officer-of-the-day and told us. Men were dying; from reveille on the bugles kept blowing taps; and the volleys that preceded it rippled up and down the line of trenches. Then came the order that prohibited volleys and taps for any funeral of a soldier; thereafter they were buried silently. Headquarters thought we might become demoralized by the steady volleys and the taps! Our only reaction was a curious contempt for a headquarters that could think such kind of weakly sentimentalism. Places like Misery Hill—and San Juan—made tough men and made them fast.

Mule trains got through (fifty mules to the train) and each mule packed four boxes of hardtack and a thousand rounds of ammunition. If a mule-packer got half his train to our part of Misery Hill, he was likely to get a medal. Mules were mired all along the Aguadores trail; their packs were thrown and abandoned; and the landscape became dotted with big bay mules that were, ultimately, absorbed by the Cubans. But Major General Shafter had three mule-loads of champagne and ice, presumably from the Astor yacht, back of the lines. General Shafter disliked horseback—he had gout—and inspected his lines from a Maine buckboard.

For four days there was no sick-call blown; it made no difference, for there were no medicines—no quinine, no bismuth, and twelve compound cathartic pills in the medicine chest. Sick call meant that, if you were well enough to shuffle over to the hospital tent, you were well enough for duty. One company, in a 24-hour turn of guard duty, sent in *five* supernumeraries.

Everyone was lousy, some with all three kinds of them. In some way the belief grew that ants were mortal enemies of lice so you could see naked men intently watching an ant hill on which his clothes lay. Maybe ants *are* mortal enemies of lice but, if so, when we invaded Santiago there must have been an armistice on, and the little seam-squirrels and their kin went on about their affairs under a flag of truce.

We started out from New York City with Merriam packs; they were suitable for a short stroll in the park.



Then we swung to the horse-collar blanket roll for the Cuban invasion, and I still think it the best pack ever invented. Our shirts were a dark navy blue. A red bandanna was worn around the neck that served all purposes, and sky-blue trousers. Against any background we stood out in colorful relief. Now and then a canteen sprung a leak. A joint of bamboo was whittled out that held as much, and held it sweet—without that flavor of rusty iron and sowbelly which I still associate with our

old Civil War canteen. Our belts held fifty cartridges; in our socks (strung around the neck) were fifty or so more, and our haversacks held the remaining of the issue of two hundred. These were the old .45-70 cartridges.

Our greatest need for cartridges came when we covered the withdrawal of Best's Battery on the crest of San Juan with our screen of black powder smoke—each cartridge billowed forth a cloud of bluish-white smoke about the size of a cow. About a hundred and twenty-five of us went over the crest and began a "rapid-fire." We were there perhaps three minutes while the battery was withdrawn by the cannoneers—they didn't dare risk the horses for the battery was in the open, in full view of the Spaniards. We lost twenty-five men in those three minutes; and the battery lost one man, a sergeant! For the Spaniards had eighteen machine guns to our four; and I still think they poured all of the eighteen into that line of smoke we made for the battery.

Charles Johnson Post

"THE TWO TYPES"

As a "This I Remember" note of possible interest I turn back to my experiences overseas with the American Field Service, attached to the British Eighth Army. For



"— and precisely what do you mean by improperly dressed?"



"Wont it be grand when we can get back into civvies?"

a while we were with the Gurkhas who, through one of those fantastic incidents in British colonial history, are honorary members of the King's Royal Rifle Corps (the old Royal Americans) and wear their colours, green with a thin red stripe through the ribbon as difference. Recently I was given the right to wear the regimental tie of the 43rd Gurkha Brigade—green with crossed white kukris—quite stunning and which I wear only on special occasions and with terrific pride.

While the Field Service itself was a civilian organization, we were given the courtesy rating of Warrant Officers and wore British battle dress. But the variations to which the "habit" was subjected throughout North Africa and Italy were horrendous and gave birth to "The Two Types" who became classics in the *Eighth Army News*. I am sending three examples; they are done by an artist about whom I know nothing save that he signs himself "Jon."

Frederick T. Chapman

NOTE ON PROVENANCE

The following excerpt is from the *Annual Report of the Secretary of War* for the fiscal year 1866, page 99, and is part of the report of the Chief of the Division of Clothing and Equipage, Office of the Quartermaster General. Are the uniforms referred to the ones now in the



"These fellahs seem to be getting the right idea."

National Museum which purport to date from about 1775-1825, but which are patently reproductions?

Quartermaster General's Office,
Washington, D. C., October 13, 1886.

... During the past year a collection of samples of uniforms and equipage used by the army since the war of the Revolution has been made and added to the collection of standard samples preserved at the Schuylkill arsenal. Besides being a matter of general interest, it will be a source of information for the department, the want of which has been manifested during the past four or five years...

ALEXANDER J. PERRY,
Brevet Brigadier General U. S. A.,
Chief Second Division.

Brevet Major General M. C. Meigs,
Quartermaster General, U. S. A.,

ANSWER: CAVALRY SABERS (Vol. IV, p. 51)

Apparently there was no formal transfer of the cavalry saber from the waist belt to the saddle. In partial answer to F.P.T.'s question regarding when a formal transfer took place, the change seems to have been gradual and informal, starting as early as the 1870's. Probably the only definite phase of the transfer was the final one,

which came about 1912 when saber attachments for the waist belt were no longer issued.

Two late 19th century notes on the wearing of the cavalry saber were reprinted in the *Journal* of the U. S. Cavalry Association, March 1913. In one of these, dating from 1879, Bvt. Brig. Gen. Wesley Merritt, commanding 5th Cavalry, observed:

"ARMAMENT—This is covered in three words: saber, carbine, pistol. The saber should be carried on the saddle by a simple contrivance now in use on the frontier. In referring to this manner of carrying the saber, it may be said that it is entirely free from objections, either in injury to the weapon, or in inconvenience to the horse or trooper. Also, by this method of attachment the sometimes serious objection that the saber is noisy on marches to be conducted with secrecy, is entirely removed. Besides, it is at hand for use and never in the way when a command is dismounted."

The other note was extracted from a report of a march made by the 8th Cavalry from Texas to Dakota in 1888, rendered by Lt. Col. J. R. Mizner, 8th Cavalry. It stated:



Illustrating the common method used on the frontier of carrying the saber attached to the saddle: Drawing by R. F. Zogbaum, in Harper's Weekly, 13 April 1889, showing the 5th U. S. Cavalry in Oklahoma.

"In view of the coming march of the regiment to Dakota, the attention of troop commanders is invited to G. O. 73 of 1885, A. G. O., and Troops will be armed and equipped for field duty as therein prescribed, the saber attached to the saddle."

The above notes, while revealing, do not refer to a formal transfer from belt to saddle. *Cavalry Drill Regulations* for 1902 still included instructions for "Manual of the Saber, Mounted," when worn by the man and when attached to the saddle (pp. 389-394). Furthermore, as late as 1910 individual equipment for enlisted men of the Cavalry included the saber attachments for the belt according to the QMG publication on uniforms and equipment for 1907, as amended for 1910.

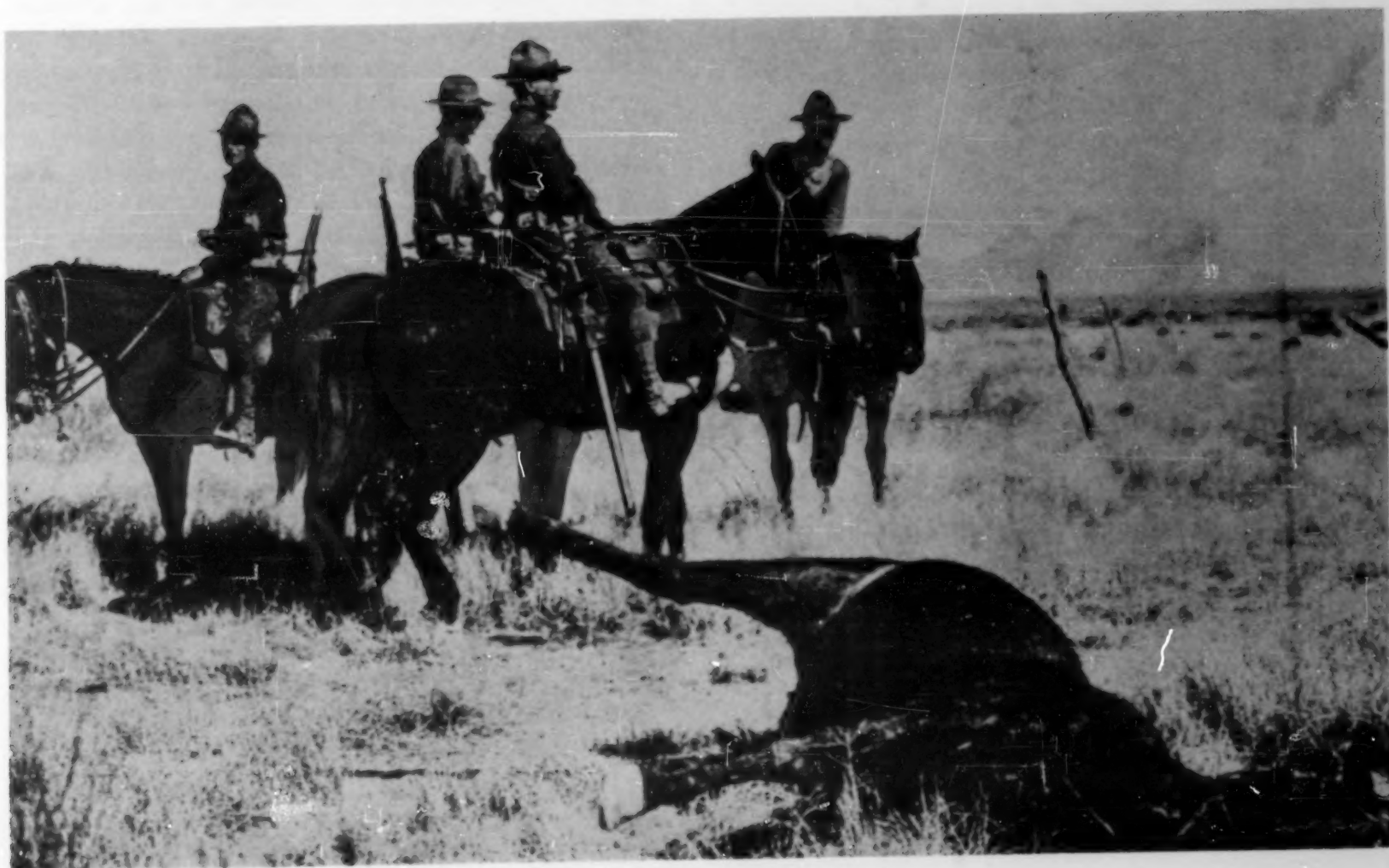
A new element was introduced with the Model 1913 saber and the experimental model which preceded it. The scabbard of the experimental saber of about 1906, as

issued with experimental equipment of 1912, was the first to have the bell-shaped mouth with two fixed, opposite rings for attachment to the saddle and not to the man. This scabbard was issued to the 11th Cavalry and to part of the 13th Cavalry for trial purposes. The experimental weapon, like the regular Model 1913 saber which followed it, was designed for mounted use and was not intended to be worn by the dismounted trooper.

If it fails to reveal a formal transfer from belt to saddle, this brief record shows that, as is often true with other arms and equipment, the new method of carrying the saber was probably first adopted as a field expedient, and that the subsequent changeover was gradual. There is no question about the Model 1913 saber and the experimental model which preceded it; both of them were designed only for attachment to the saddle.

Harry Larter

Illustrations on opposite page: (above) U. S. cavalryman, about 1912, showing Model 1860 light cavalry saber still in use, but attached to the off side of the saddle; (below) U. S. cavalrymen in Mexico, just after the Columbus Raid of March 1916, showing the Model 1913 saber being carried on the saddle.



GAZETTE

The Secretary has announced the approval of the Board of Governors of the following ladies and gentlemen as active member of THE COMPANY:

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 Charles G. Wilson, Kingfield, Me.
 Edward A. Wilson, Truro, Mass.
 Sloan J. Wilson, Mission, Kansas

★ ★ ★

Two new societies in our field deserve notice. In England, The Military Heraldry Society was formed early in 1951 "with the aim of promoting and fostering interest in the study of formation signs [shoulder sleeve devices

of various sorts]." A quarterly *Bulletin* is issued. Annual dues are only 5 shillings. Address the Hon. Secretary, Captain J. Waring, DLI, 4 Park Road, High Barnet, Herts, England.

The Military History Society of Southern Africa was formed this year, largely through the efforts of Mr. P. W. Cahill of Johannesburg. Plans are being made to publish a periodical, and headquarters have been established at the South African National War Museum, Erlswold Way, Saxonwold, Johannesburg, South Africa. Annual subscription will be one guinea.

★ ★ ★

The Polish Historical Society in Great Britain, 20 Princes Gate, London SW7, has graciously sent us copies of the revised *Bron I Barwa* (Weapons and Uniforms) published by it since 1948. This is a mimeographed annual, with text in Polish, each issue containing several hand colored drawings of Polish uniforms, accouterments, etc. It continues the magazine of the same name published in Warsaw from 1934 to the outbreak of the last war in 1939 by the Association of Friends of the Polish Military Museum.

★ ★ ★

NOTES ON MEMBERS: Governor Harold L. Peterson prepared a valuable listing of firearms museums in the United States, which has been published in *The American Rifleman*, June 1953 . . . Orson D. Munn, Jr., together with his collection of military miniatures and his charming wife, made the *Sunday Mirror Magazine*, 19 July 1953 . . . Editor Frederick P. Todd has been appointed Director of the West Point Museum, and took up duties there 21 September . . . President Harry C. Larter has spent several weeks reorganizing the Fort Sill Artillery Museum.

NOTES ON PUBLICATIONS

It is with the keenest of pleasure that we announce the receipt of Ray Riling's *The Powder Flask Book*, published by Robert Halter at The River House, New Hope, Pa., 1953. Let us mention at once that the cost is \$25.00 and then add that the book is well worth that price—not alone for the collector of powder flasks, not alone, by any means, even for the student of small arms—but for everyone interested in military collecting and history, no matter what his specialty may be. In fact, it is not an exaggeration to say that this is a book worth owning by anyone with the least interest in books *per se*.

In the first place, the statement on its dust cover is noteworthy: "This is not a book that attempts to outshine competitors. It has no competitors. It sets a pace that will lead the field for years to come. It is the only powder flask book." In our opinion, it will always lead the field, for here is that rare of rare volumes that can truthfully be called "exhaustive" and "definitive."

The Powder Flask Book is magnificently illustrated. Its 495 pages are so plentifully stocked with pictures that no attempt has been made to include them in a single listing, or even to total their number in adver-

tising. There are not only pictures of the flasks, but of the weapons with which they were employed; the soldiers, huntsmen and others who carried them; the contemporary advertisements that sold them; and the patents that protected their manufacture. Indeed, these pictures—beautifully reproduced—alone make the book worth the price.

This work treats the history of the flask—abroad and in this country—from its inception until the popular acceptance of the metallic cartridge. Its professional competence, thorough documentation, and clarity of presentation have been testified to in the highest terms in several contemporary magazines, notably *Combat Forces Journal* of September 1953, to which we refer our readers for a further critique.

We congratulate our Vice President for producing one of the most remarkable books of any type of our generation, and certainly the most impressive in the field of military collecting to appear for many years in America.

★ ★ ★

The Battle of the Little Big Horn comes up again. Our last announcement on the subject mentioned Colonel Graham's book on the flags carried therein, and Knoetel's watercolors of the uniforms worn (*MC&H*, IV, 79). Now the Stackpole Company, Harrisburg, Pa., has published *Firearms in the Custer Battle* by John E. Parsons and Member John S. du Mont (\$2.75). Both authors are recognized authorities in the field of smallarms. The study is detailed, interestingly presented, and finely illustrated. Our copy arrived too late to permit more than this preliminary notice; we hope to include a more careful appraisal in the next issue.

★ ★ ★

Alas! We must correct our correction in the last issue concerning the Belgian Army post cards offered by Member A. Elebaut. We were right the first time; their price is 35 cents *per card*. In all, twelve sets of these cards have been issued, some sets with five, and some with six cards. Orders should be sent to 9, Rue Mommaerts, Molenbeek (Brussels), Belgium.

★ ★ ★

Major T. J. Edward's two new books, announced in earlier issues of these Notes, have been published and copies have begun to reach this country. The first is *Standards, Guidons and Colours of the Commonwealth* (30/ plus postage), which has 65 pages of illustrations, including 21 in full color, and 239 pages of text, and is an altogether excellent work. The other is *Mascots and Pets of the Services* (15/ plus postage). Both were published by Gale & Polden Ltd., Aldershot.

Speaking of books on regimental colors, we want to hark back to *Colours and Honours in South Africa, 1783-1948*, by Dr. H. H. Curson, Praetoria: Wallachs' P. & P. Co. Ltd., 1948. This is a study done with great skill and patience. It was out of print almost as soon as it was published and collectors should never pass up a copy offered.

★ ★ ★

We have long meant to mention *This Happy Breed: Sidelights on Soldiers and Soldiering*, by Reginald Hargreaves (299 pages, Skeffington, 1951). Major Hargreaves, always an entertaining writer on military matters, in his book is concerned with the British Soldier. Based for the most part on letters and diaries, the field of concentration is on the period from 1600 down through the nineteenth century. Has highly entertaining illustrations by the author.

★ ★ ★

Another book has been added to the reference shelf on American gunmakers this spring by Member A. Merwyn Carey. This new volume, entitled *American Firearms Makers* (Crowell, \$5.00), has much to recommend it, and we are happy to call attention to it here. Each entry is complete with the location and dates of the maker. The research has been painstakingly done, and the format and typography are excellent.

There are now five directories of American gunsmiths. Of these, the two by Gluckman and Kauffman, mentioned in the last issue, and the present volume are by far the best. Each has good features that the others lack, and each lists some makers that are omitted by the others. The casual collector may select from these three on the basis of his own individual needs, but the real student will recognize the need of having them all.

Of added interest to members of THE COMPANY are the facts that the cover design was done by Tom Parker, our Associate Editor, and the drawings throughout were made by Member Herb Sherlock.

WAR ON THE SILVER SCREEN

THE ARMY IN THE WEST: In view of the rather mediocre quality of recent pictures dealing with the westward march of empire, a march in which the Army was well up in front, it is with a feeling of nostalgia that one reviews the golden years of 1948, 1949 and 1950. In these years director John Ford produced, respectively, his immortal trilogy of "Fort Apache" (*RKO*), "She Wore a Yellow Ribbon" (*RKO*), and "Rio Grande" (*Republic*). So far as war on the silver screen is concerned, these pictures are classics.

They have common denominators, and in a way this is unfortunate; a tendency toward the development of stereotypes is frequently the result. Actor John Wayne appeared in all three pictures; in "Fort Apache," the first of the series, he played second fiddle to Henry Fonda, but in the other two he was top man. In "Apache" Wayne was a captain who verbally saved the honor of the regiment in the presence of newspaper men by covering up the mistakes of the Colonel (Fonda) after the latter had succeeded in leading the regiment into an Apache trap. In "Yellow Ribbon" Wayne, still a captain, was facing retirement because of age, but before hanging up his sword led his men in a rousing victory over the Indians. But in "Rio Grande" this splendid actor has become a colonel, and has his son on his hands, a private in his regiment. In all these films Wayne, whether captain or colonel, is a hard-bitten cavalryman and skillful Indian fighter.

Another common denominator, and a lovable one, is Victor McLaglen as the rowdy but loyal sergeant. He invariably stages a big drunk, is locked up, but when battle is joined he is in the thick of it. Now we find that Army westerns are commonly afflicted with drunken sergeants who sober up in time for the big fight.

But the best denominator in Ford's pictures is the splendid and quite accurate portrayal of the Old Army on the plains. The saga of the American Cavalry in the West has been forever preserved in film and the pictures will never be dated.

One other classic worthy of mention is "Broken Arrow" (20th Century-Fox, 1950, directed by Delmer Daves) with James Stewart in the starring role. The picture had, at the time, an unusual theme: the hero's sympathy for and understanding of the Apaches. The "good" Apache, Cochise, was superbly portrayed by Jeff Chandler. The "bad" Apache, Geromino, was of course the villain of the piece. So far as this column is concerned, there is one terrific battle scene in which a column of U. S. infantry, with wagon transport, is cut to

ribbons by the Apaches. The Army is given a distinctly black-eye in this picture, for the column was on its way to wipe out good and bad Apaches alike. The massacre was most gruesome and realistic.

Turning to more recent pictures, "Pony Soldier" (20th Century-Fox, 1952) is primarily a story of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, with Tyrone Power in the lead. It starts with a large party of Cree Indians crossing the Canadian border to hunt buffalo. They are attacked in the middle of a river by U. S. Cavalry. In contrast to the Ford pictures and to "Broken Arrow," this fight, filmed from a distance with the warriors blurred and indistinct, has all the vague qualities of an impressionistic painting.

Another film now making the rounds is "The Man Behind the Gun," with Zachary Scott. There are soldiers in this picture, and they beat up a gang of California ruffians, but unless one wants to waste an evening, attendance is not advised. Attendance is optional for "Springfield Rifle," starring Gary Cooper (Warner Brothers, 1952), and "The Battle at Apache Pass," with John Lund and Jeff Chandler (Universal, 1952, directed by George Sherman).

CURRENT AND NOT SO CHOICE: Bob Hope and Mickey Rooney have teamed up in Paramount's "Off Limits," directed by George Marshall. This is supposed to be a picture about the Corps of Military Police, but MP's who waste their money on the film will scarcely be amused. Slapstick and farce, on an unusually low level, lampoon Army life in general and the MP's in particular. One rather distressing scene is typical of the whole thing: an important conference, attended by a general and other assorted rank, devotes serious time and attention to how many military policemen should be stationed at a prize ring when Mickey Rooney fights for the honor of the Army. The Army and MP's certainly deserve better treatment than this!

Robert W. Davis

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